

Edwards Secures Funds to Help Johnson County Law Enforcement

Fight Crime, Build Lake Pat Cleburne Trail System

(WASHINGTON, DC) – Congressman Chet Edwards announced that he has secured funding that will help Johnson County law enforcement crack down on crime in the 2011 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations bill, which passed its respective subcommittee this week.

At the request of local law enforcement, Edwards secured \$200,000 for efforts to slow the spread of illegal drugs in Johnson County under the Stop the Offender Program (STOP).

“As the father of two young sons, I am deeply committed to doing everything possible to protect our communities,” said Congressman Edwards, a senior member of the Appropriations Committee . *“These funds will help our law enforcement officers continue their work to arrest drug dealers and other criminals, and send a clear message that crime will not be tolerated in Johnson County.”*

Adam King, STOP Commander said, *“The funding that he secured for the unit's operation will*

help ensure that drug dealers and other serious criminals will not be able to find safe havens in our neighborhoods. We owe Congressman Edwards and his staff a big 'thank you' for their support."

Congressman Edwards continued, *"I believe we have an obligation to work closely with local law enforcement to protect our families and keep our communities safe."*

In addition to the \$200,000 added by Edwards to the 2011 bill, Edwards has secured \$688,000 for STOP at the request of Johnson County law enforcement since 2005.

Also at the request of Johnson County leaders, Edwards secured \$250,000 for Lake Pat Cleburne Trail System to construct a multi-use recreational trail at Lake Pat Cleburne of approximately 5000 feet in length. This accessible trail will be used for walking, jogging, bicycling, and general recreational purposes for the citizens of Cleburne and guests. The funding for the trail system was added by Edwards under the 2011 Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Appropriations bill, which passed the House Appropriations Subcommittee July 1st.

Cleburne Mayor Justin Hewlett said, *"We are very happy for the work that Congressman Edwards has done on behalf of this project. This important funding will help spur the development of the Cleburne Hiking trails and coincides with the city's master parks plan."*

Both bills must still pass the House, Senate and be signed by the President.